

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01395 252256Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O 252133Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7129

INFO COMDT COGARD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COCGDSEVEN MIAMI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1395

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS BF

SUBJ: SPINY LOBSTER

FOR UNDER SECRETARY MAW AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS
FROM AMBASSADOR WEISS

1. SINCE OUR TELCONS EARLIER TODAY, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT ADDERLEY'S PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE THE TERMINATION OF THE TALKS STEMMED FROM CLAUDE PEPPER'S INTERVENTION. UNFORTUNATELY, AS NOTED BELOW, PEPPER MAY HAVE LEFT THE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL AID PROGRAMS AND/OR HAD VALUED THE OFFERS ALREADY PLACED ON THE TABLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT DOLS 10 MILLION.

2. ADMIRAL WAGNER CALLED FROM MIAMI TO REPORT A FURTHER CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD WITH PEPPER WHICH LED WAGNER TO CONCLUDE THAT ADDERLEY'S ACTION TODAY WAS TO BE EXPLAINED ENTIRELY ON THE BASIS OF THE ANTICIPATION OF AN ADDITIONAL AID PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO ADMIRAL WAGNER, IN THE FACE OF PEPPER'S INDICATION TO ADDERLEY THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO TERMINATE THE NEGOTIATIONS TODAY, ADDERLEY MADE IT CLEAR THE BAHAMAS PREFERENCE WAS TO RETAIN THE LOBSTER RESOURCE EXCLUSIVELY FOR BAHAMIANS AND NOT REPEAT NOT TO HAVE IT AVAILABLE FOR U.S. FISHERMEN. IT APPEARS THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THAT, PEPPER RAISED THE QUESTION OF AN AID PROGRAM.

3. LATER I RECEIVED A CALL FROM ADDERLEY WHO HAD ATTEMPTED
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UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONTACT WALLACE. ADDERLEY INDICATED THAT

HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH WALLACE TODAY. IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION AND IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, ADDERLEY DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE WISHED TO PURSUE FURTHER THE QUESTION OF AID AS RAISED BY "FORMER SENATOR PEPPER." I TOLD ADDERLEY THAT WE WOULD LOCATE WALLACE SO THAT HE COULD HAVE SUCH A CONVERSATION, BUT THAT HE, ADDERLEY, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT I HAD TOLD PEPPER EARLIER TODAY THAT THE PROSPECT OF A FURTHER AID PROGRAM FOR THE BAHAMAS WAS NEXT TO ZERO. I REMINDED ADDERLEY THAT I HAD SO INDICATED THAT TO HIM AND TO THE PRIMIN WHEN THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH ME. ADDERLEY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS AWARE OF OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS AND THAT PEPPER HAD ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SAID AN AID PROGRAM WAS NOT IN THE CARDS. HOWEVER, ADDERLEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT PEPPER HAD INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PACKAGE OF ITEMS WE HAD ALREADY OFFERED WAS IN EFFECT VALUED OUT AT DOLS 10 MILLION, WHETHER THAT WAS IN PART AN AID PROGRAM OR VALUE OTHERWISE ATTRIBUTED TO OUR VARIOUS PROPOSALS.

4. I SAID I COULD NOT IMAGINE WHERE CONGRESSMAN PEPPER HAD GOTTEN THAT FIGURE UNLESS HE HAD CONFUSED THE DOLS 10 MILLION ANDROS AID PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO THE BAHAMAS WITH OUR CURRENT DISCUSSIONS. I SAID THAT WE HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO PLACE A SPECIFIC VALUE AGAINST OUR VARIOUS PROPOSALS SINCE HE, ADDERLEY, HAD REJECTED THEM INDIVIDUALLY AND IN TOTO AS BEING NON-RESPONSIVE TO BAHAMIAN NEEDS. WALLACE OF COURSE EARLIER TODAY TOLD ADDERLEY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NO AID PACKAGE TO OFFER.

5. AT THE MOMENT, I SEE THESE POSSIBILITIES: A) PEPPER HAS WHETTED ADDERLEY'S APPETITE FOR AN AID PROGRAM, B) ADDERLEY WAS GENUINELY MISLED BY PEPPER INTO BELIEVING THAT WE HAD OFFERED ENDUCEMENTS WHICH ADDED UP TO DOLS 10 MILLION, OR C) ADDERLEY IS SEEKING A FACE SAVING WAY TO AVOID A DEADLOCK, PERHAPS BY HAVING US PUT A HIGH ARBITRARY VALUATION ON WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY OFFERED. UNFORTUNATELY, I BELIEVE (A) AND (B) ARE THE FAR MORE LIKELY EXPLANATIONS AND WHEN ADDERLEY IS CONVINCED NEITHER IS CORRECT WE WILL BE WHERE WE WERE AT THE TIME WE WENT INTO THIS MORNING'S NEGOTIATION, I.E., AT THE POINT OF TERMINATION. IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT (C) MAY BE THE EXPLANATION WE WILL OBVIOUSLY WANT TO EXPLORE THAT AND THIS IS A MATTER
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WHICH WALLACE AND HIS DELEGATION WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT. I HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NO ONE HAS AT THIS POINT EVEN AN EDUCATED GUESS OF WHAT THE BAHAMIANS MIGHT DERIVE IN REVENUE FROM OUR PROPOSALS, BUT IT HAS GOT TO BE A SMALL FRACTION OF THE DOLS 10 MILLION FIGURE THAT PEPPER MENTIONED TO ADDERLEY.

6. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AFTER WALLACE SEES ADDERLEY.
WEISS

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. HOGANSON.

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